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REGIONAL COOPERATION

Letter dated 27 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office in Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the European Community and its member States, I wish to bring to your attention the following comments regarding the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/1993/85).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the letter and the attached comments to be circulated as an official document of the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 14 (Regional cooperation).

(Signed) A. REYN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.93-70476 (E)

Annex

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON REGIONAL COOPERATION (E/1993/85)

The European Community and its member States have the following comments to make regarding the report:

(a) Procedural: the report was distributed at a very late stage in the discussion and could not be studied with due attention by delegations;

(b) As regards substance, the following comments are submitted:

(i) With reference to paragraph 6, decision B (48) should be adhered to; operative paragraph 7 reads "Requests the Executive-Secretary to present proposals on diversification of forms and methods ...";

(ii) With reference to paragraphs 15 and 19, decision K (48) should be adhered to, in particular operative paragraphs 1, 6 and 8. Notwithstanding other considerations, attention should be drawn to the requirement of appropriate financing ("provided that adequate financing, in cash and in kind, is made available, bearing in mind that resources may in part be made available from the United Nations General Assembly to the Commission ...");

(iii) In paragraph 77, the wording is ambiguous ("Support was expressed for the proposal ... to establish a regional environmental management centre for the chemical industry"). The text should be rewritten in the light of decision H (48), "Cooperation and sustainable development in the chemical industry", in particular operative paragraphs 2 and 4; It was understood that the final outcome would depend on the conclusions of the Working Party to be convened in October 1993;

(iv) With reference to paragraph 197, in particular the last sentence (... "ECE, which had for political reasons concentrated on economic issues, was now starting to develop a capacity for social questions.") it may be useful to recall the Commission's terms of reference. The Commission is essentially economic and in any case has not a sufficiently large budget to enable it to go beyond its terms of reference.